

Delete the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 28, with the term "[Claim 4]".

Delete the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 31, with the term "[Claim 5]".

Delete the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 1, with the term "[Claim 6]".

After page 14, beginning on a new page 15 add the following:

-WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

-7. A ferrule comprising:

at least two alignment pin holes into which alignment pins for positioning with respect to a mating ferrule are inserted; and

a plurality of fiber fixed holes for inserting an optical fiber, said fiber fixed holes being formed at predetermined locations with respect to said two alignment pin holes;

wherein each of said fiber fixed holes has at least a fiber guide portion for guiding the optical fiber, a fiber hole portion adjacent said fiber guide portion to receive the tip end of the optical fiber, and a fiber insertion portion adjacent said fiber guide portion to receive the sheathed portion of the optical fiber;

wherein said fiber guide portion and said fiber insertion portion are joined with a connecting position having a tapered shape.

8. The ferrule according to claim 7, wherein the fiber insertion portion of each fiber fixed hole is formed as a common fiber insertion portion for introducing a plurality of sheathed portions, and said fiber insertion portion is provided with movement regulating means for regulating the movement of sheathed portion in the direction of arrangement of sheathed portion.

9. The ferrule according to claim 8, wherein said movement regulating means consists of a convex portion, and the width of said fiber insertion portion in said movement

regulating means in the direction perpendicular to the direction of arrangement of sheathed portion is smaller than the diameter of said sheathed portion.

10. The ferrule according to claim 7, wherein an adhesive agent pool for fixing the optical fiber is formed at the opening portion of said fiber insertion portion.
11. The ferrule according to claim 10, wherein the width of the opening portion of said adhesive agent pool in the direction perpendicular to the direction of arrangement of sheathed portion is larger than the width of said opening portion in the direction of arrangement of sheathed portion.
12. The ferrule according to claim 11, wherein said fiber guide portion and said fiber insertion portion are formed into a continuous taper shape.--

Please substitute the originally-filed drawings with drawings filed herewith.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted



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